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DECEMBER 16, 1922

AN EXPECTED VERDICT

Illinois' rejection of a new hand-made constitution was extremely surprising in just one respect—the size of the overwhelming majority against the new basic law. The vote on the adoption of the new constitution was one of the most decisive ever registered against any proposition.

In this decision of the Illinois voters there is much food for thought. No state, be it Illinois, Indiana or Massachusetts, can expect to replace a system of government that has been worked out after long years of experience with a new form which is more the product of the brain than experience. Granting that every member of the convention which drew up this new constitution for Illinois was actuated by no motive but that of the most sincere interest in the state's welfare, it could not be expected that the product of their efforts would be worth the time and energy spent on it.

No state in this nation has a constitution or basic law which is so flexible as to be unable to be changed when the change is warranted. That has been proved by experience. When a change is warranted, that change will be brought about, and when it is brought about it will remedy some particular defect that has needed correction. With the march of time new defects are continually cropping up, and it may be the case that as fast as one defect is remedied by a constitutional amendment another defect is added to the list of unsatisfactory conditions.

Amendments to the constitution of the United States is an example of the best procedure. Nineteen amendments have been added to it since it was framed, and each of these came only after a crystallization of sentiment that was unmistakable in its significance. Other amendments will be made as time demands. But if one was to propose that the entire constitution should be discarded and a new one drafted just because it was not completely satisfactory, he would be considered a candidate for a sanity commission. Existing state constitutions, as well as the federal constitution, are not perfect, but they are at least workable. No great reform has ever been accomplished in a day and attempts of reformers to eradicate a number of existing evils at a single stroke are put down as dreams of visionary rather than practical men.

The people of Illinois rendered a natural and expected verdict. They understood the conditions under which they were living, and they appreciated that the existing system was preferable to a system about which they knew nothing, and which had for its only commendation the fact that it was theoretically a reform constitution.

GERMAN TOYS

At least a third of the toys that Santa Claus will bring to American kiddies this Christmas will have the "Made in Germany" label. This is the estimate among toy importers.

German toys have definitely returned to our markets. But not on as big a scale as before the war. In 1914 America bought \$7,118,000 worth of German toys. Last year the figure was around \$3,600,000, and this will not show much increase when final check-up of 1922 imports is announced.

Toy-making in Germany is in small factories, rarely employing as many as 25 workers. For the most part, the toys are produced in homes, where the trade has been handed down from generation to generation.

Most of the German toys are of the inexpensive sort, though making them requires highly skilled hand labor and a sense of the artistic.

These toys are coming again in a flood. But they are not seriously interfering with the real function of American toy makers, who are following the national trait and turning out toys that can be machine made on a big scale.

Germany sends miniature doll furniture, lead soldiers, Noah's Ark and Christmas tree decorations. American makers supply most of the doll carriages, wagons, magic lanterns, electric trains and cast-iron animals.

Before the war, nine-tenths of our toys were imported. We have built up a big toy industry. It is suffering from competition, but it is going to survive—doing the big things and not bothering much with the "small junk" lines.

In 1920 toy imports totaled nearly \$11,000,000, the highest ever. This year it is about two-thirds less.

How much will America pay Santa Claus for all its toys? A very conservative estimate would be \$20,000,000.

Adding up all Christmas presents, you'd have a sum running into the billions. All this makes people happy, keeps hundreds of thousands employed, and wears out cash registers in the stores.

It's a tremendous cost. Since we pay it, let's get our money's worth—enjoy Christmas to the utmost. Money should be—and in most cases is—the last consideration at Christmas time. Happiness is cheap at any price.

JAIL INMATES SHOULD WORK

There are at all times anywhere from two hundred to three hundred thousand persons confined in the county jails of the United States, and whether confined for a day, month, or a year, they are kept in utter and complete idleness. Joseph F. Fishman, former federal prison inspector, writes in the Atlantic Monthly.

Here is a situation which is worth the attention of those who have the interests of society in general at heart. These inmates of the county jails are not felons. They have overstepped the laws, but only to the extent that a jail sentence rather than a prison sentence was deemed satisfactory retribution. The whole idea of a jail or a prison is that it should exercise a corrective influence on those who are confined in it. If that be not the case the function of a jail or prison becomes that of protecting society against the criminal tendencies of the prisoner only during the period when he is confined within its walls, and it takes for granted that just as soon as

TODAY'S TALK

By George Matthew Adams

BISAGNO.

This is the name of a human being of whom I was not aware until today when I read of his remarkable example in my daily newspaper.

For years and years Bisagno toiled in San Francisco. He saved and invested his small earnings. He never lost an opportunity to say a happy word or to give expression to his appreciation of a kindness.

My attention was called to his life by his death. He left a fortune of something like \$250,000, and he willed it all away to those who had during his life said a kind word to him or who had even in the smallest way befriended him. There were over a hundred people who were named beneficiaries in his will—and among the number were noted bootblacks, famous actresses, society women, clerks and many in other active walks of life.

A quarter of a million dollars—given away for kindness!

It seems to me that Bisagno's city should erect a statue to the memory of this fine appreciator of the most commonly neglected virtues of our daily lives, so that all who might pass would immediately be quickened to act as he acted.

The greatest little traveler in existence is a kind word, a kind act, a kind impulse put into expression in some way.

It is such a simple thing to thank people, to say "please," to smile approval, to lend a hand.

Bisagno made a fortune by it—and then he gave it all away in appreciation of that same thing that had been given to him.

The first line of a beautiful sentiment by Stevenson comes to me: "To be honest—to be kind!"

the prisoner is freed he returns to his criminal pursuits.

Can this proper corrective influence be exercised if the inmate of the jail spends the period of his confinement in complete idleness? Sociologists will tell you that the environment of one who has been committed to a jail has been at fault. But what will these sociologists say of the environment of this individual in a jail where he spends his time in idleness and association with others representing every degree of criminal tendencies? On the face of it there is a strong case against the present jail system. Instead of exercising the corrective influence that is desired it often has the effect of making the inmate immeasurably more of a social problem.

Mr. Fishman's solution of the problem is a system of work for which the prisoners should be paid. He does not advocate that prisoners should be paid the same scale that would be paid to workers in similar occupations outside, but that it should be sufficient to permit the prisoner to accumulate in two or three months a sufficient amount of money to float himself when he gets out, until he is able to find some work to do.

This indictment of the country's present jail system, coming as it does from a man who is qualified by experience to pass judgment on it, is indeed something which should concern all county officials.

"It is not safe," Mr. Fishman continues, "to make work of any kind an unknown thing for months and even years; to take away entirely the habit of wage earning; to make it impossible to be accumulating a little fund against the day of release for continuing the broken thread of normal life; and then expect a man or woman, all lax and unaccustomed, to capture immediately an honest livelihood in the great struggle of economic competition. Such policy has as much sense as employing an incendiary in a powder mill. "Determined though a man may be to lead a straight life, it takes but a day or two of hunger to bring him to a mental state of self justification which is the first step to crime. To turn a man out in summer is bad enough; in winter, it is criminal."

The United States is in such a bad condition it is going to lend Cuba fifty millions.

Things are getting brighter. Even the leaves are turning.

Other Editors Than Our:

THE WORLD'S PAYROLL
(New Orleans Times-Picayune.)

Reports received by the international labor office of the League of Nations indicate that unemployment continues its decline in almost all countries. From the early months of the year to the present the world's army of jobless men and women, the greatest ever known, has been steadily diminishing despite a series of political disturbances and changes in government affairs. Some individual industries report increased unemployment but on an average there has been a satisfactory dropping off, with the downward tendency promising to continue.

France and Germany matter things about war and at the same time keep nearly all hands busy, both these countries the unemployment problem is said to be substantially negligible. Mutual suspicions may influence industriousness in France and Germany to an extent but that does not explain the situation entirely. Reconstruction the world over is moving forward and consequently more names constantly are being added to payrolls.

We want nothing better than total employment because that indicates everyone is earning a living and minimizes the possibility of strife and war. It is much easier to have peace if we have industriousness. The idler is history's chronic trouble maker. Americans are glad to note that unemployment no longer is a grave matter in this country and all thinking Americans, of course, are glad to see a general world-wide brightening of the situation.

BUMPS.
(Columbus Citizen.)

Auto riding steadily gets less lumpy. Uncle Sam reports that, during the fiscal year 1922, 10,000 miles of roads were built with national-government aid. Another 10,000 miles of highways were built without Uncle Sam's help.

Twenty thousand miles of good roads in one year would reach about seven times across our continent. How long until repairs will be needed? We think too much of mileage, not enough of quality of pavement. Absolutely. Mr. Gallinger.

BAREFOOT.
(Norfolk Post.)

Easy to keep in good health, just go around barefoot. Who says so? "Barefoot Gene" Willard of Chelsea, Mass. He has traveled 50,000 miles in his bare feet through snow and over burning sands. Gene thinks it's the natural way to walk, and that nature would have given shoes and stockings on our feet if she wanted us to wear them.

Maybe it sounds foolish to you. But each of us has some kind of notion that is equally foolish—except to ourselves.

HEALTH.
(Indianapolis Times.)

Are you in good health? No human body is absolutely perfect. An old joke, but it's true, a doctor can always find something wrong with a patient. Nearly every ailment, including cancer, is curable in the early stages. Neglect is what kills, rather than disease.

Important for everyone to have periodical physical examinations—teeth, eyes and a general overhauling. How often? Once in six months is a good rule. Fires are easily checked at the start.



The Tower of Babel

Bill Armstrong

TOWER READERS' CHRISTMAS FUND NOW \$1,282.78—FRIDAY PROVES SLOW DAY AT TOWER BANK—CUSTOMERS, YOU'LL HAVE TO SHOW SOME PEP TO INSURE BIG CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION FOR THE KIDS.

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Total to Date \$1,282.78

Folks, somebody is falling down on the job. But \$49 rolled into the Tower's till yesterday for the Christmas celebration for the poor folks at the City Rescue Mission. This was by big odds the punkiest day since the fund was started a week ago.

Now let's pull ourselves together and put this thing over in the same big way we have in the last two years. Get out the check book and contribute a little happiness to the thousand people that are expecting and looking forward to a genuine Christmas celebration at the City Rescue Mission. Get out the check book NOW and write checks until it hurts—you'll never regret it.

The Tower's fund will provide for everybody, which includes about 600 little children, who will also be treated to a magnificent turkey banquet by the directors of the mission. Besides the big feed, there'll be presents for all—toys, candy and nuts, Santa Claus and everything that is needed to provide a real old-fashioned Christmas for the kiddies. Grown folks at the mission will also receive presents of food and clothing and other necessities of life.

Read what different folks write to the Tower as they enthusiastically send in their checks:

Dear Bill:
Am enclosing check for Christmas fund. Wish you the greatest success in your undertaking.
BERT J. GRAYBILL

Dear Bill:
With the greatest of pleasure for your Xmas fund, a small check for \$2.00
Yours,
W. W. HANS.

Rochester, Ind., Dec. 14, 1922.
Bill Armstrong, The Tower of Babel, South Bend, Ind.

Dear Sir:
Inclosed please find my check of \$1.00 toward your Christmas fund. I saw your appeal in the South Bend News-Times and am sending my contribution herewith. Very truly yours,
EVELYN BRYANT.

Dear Bill:
I succeeded in borrowing \$2 from one of Ray Birds, who used to be a "DOWN AND OUTER," which I am sending.
I will also give 5 per cent of our regular collections of Dec. 24th and 10 per cent of the collections on all news sales on Dec. 24th.
Very truly yours,
SOUTH BEND REALTY CO.
Geo. H. Hastings, Mgr.
P. S.—Don't publish signature.

The News-Times Bureau of Questions and Answers

You can get an answer to any question or information by writing to The News-Times Bureau, 1222 N. Y. Ave., Washington, D. C., enclosing 2 cents in stamps. Medical, legal and love and marriage advice will not be given. Unchecked letters will not be answered, but all letters are acknowledged and receive personal replies.

Q. What is the present population of the world?
A. The estimated population is 1,702,526,366.

Q. How long has man existed?
A. There have been numerous estimates. One is 250,000 years.

Q. What is the toy Pomeranian dog like?
A. It is small with fox-like intelligent but small ears, tall turned back over the back, a coat of long, silky hair forming a frill about the shoulders and chest and ranging in color from white to shaded sable. The toy Pomeranian weighs from five to ten pounds and is known as the Spitz.

Q. What are the meaning of the following names?
A. Talbot—a bound.
A. Albert—all bright.
Eva—life.
Rodolph—famous hero.
Blanche—white.
A reader of this column asks for full information on the redemption by the Post Office of War Savings Stamps due January 1. Any other reader desiring this information may obtain a bulletin on the subject, telling just what it is necessary to do to have War Savings Stamps paid, by writing to our Washington Bureau, enclosing 2 cents in stamps for postage.

Q. What is the longest bridge in the world?
A. The Great Salt Lake, Utah. It is now 13 1-2 miles long and was originally 27 1-2 miles long but was filled in for a distance of 8 miles at the east end. The bridge when built was sunk to a depth of from 30 to 35 feet and the surface water of the lake is 17 feet above the water level and is 16 feet wide. This bridge was built by the Southern Pacific Railroad, at a cost of \$5,000,000.

Q. What is the address of the U. S. Railway Labor Board?
A. 188 South Dearborn st., Chicago, Illinois.

Q. What is "coke breeze"?
A. When the coke is taken from the ovens it is screened and that part which goes through the 1-2 inch holes is sold as "coke breeze."

Q. What is hebanene?
A. A poisonous annual or biennial herb of the nightshade family, introduced into this country from Europe and occasionally found as a weed in a number of northern states. The leaves, flowering tops, and sometimes the seeds are used medicinally.

Q. What is sealine?
A. A trade name for clipped and dyed goat skins (rabbit fur.)

Q. Does J. Pierpont Morgan and Co. own the controlling interest in the stock of the Southern Railway?
A. The stock of the Southern Railway System is owned by a large number of individuals. J. Pierpont Morgan and Co. owns 154,000 shares of the stock; however, this is not enough to give that firm a controlling interest as there are 1,800,000 shares of stock.

Q. What is Islam?
A. The Mohammedan religion; the whole body of Mohammedan believers.

Q. How hot is the sun?
A. Measurements by the Smithsonian Institution indicate that the sun has a temperature of approximately 6,000 degrees Centigrade (or about 10,800 degrees Fahrenheit, says Science Service).

Q. How can one qualify for a position as a wireless operator on a steamer? Must he know various foreign languages?
A. The Continental code is used on all steamers and it only necessary to know the code to be able to obtain a position as wireless operator, that is, in so far as the question of languages is concerned. In order to qualify for such a position, one must take an examination before the radio inspector of the United States Department of Commerce.

Q. Why is the moth attracted to the candle?
A. The moth is flying past a candle; the eye next the light is more illuminated than the other; a physiological inequilibrium results, affecting nerve-cells and muscle cells; the outcome is that the moth automatically adjusts its flight so that both eyes become equally illuminated; in doing this it often flies into the candle. It must be remembered that the flame of a candle is an utterly artificial item in its environment to which no one can expect the moth to be adapted.

Do not fail to visit the Christmas bazaar exhibit at the Progress Club House, opposite First M. E. church. 345-250—Adv.

Rug Cleaning, B. B. Cleaning, adv. 345-351.

TOYLAND NEWS
GEORGE WYMAN & CO.

Wyman's Daylight Basement

Saturday, December 16, 1922



Santa Suggests the Choice of Luggage For Gifts

Santa Claus' pack is filled fuller with toys than ever this year. And there's proof in the way the luggage for grown-ups has moved over to make room for the expansion of Toyland.

Sturdy trunks and traveling bags have been good natured about it, so Santa will reward them Saturday. That one day some of the very desirable luggage will be reduced. There's no better Christmas gift for grown-ups, so tell them to make selections Saturday, when prices are reduced.

Toy Farm Equipment

Gaily painted in the proper colors. There are houses, barns, fences, trees, cows, pigs, horses, in fact, just about everything that a farmer lad or lassie would require for taking up farming in even a small way. Priced 65c to \$2 set.

Poultry farm equipment at \$1.00 and \$1.40 set.



Many Books

Written For Youth

There are books for children of every age, beginning with A B C books, illustrated in colors, to Boy Scout books.

Fairy Tales and Biographies

Biographies of national heroes, always of interest to children of school age. Fairy tales and tales of romance to delight their imaginations. A wide range of prices.

Drums and Musical Toys

It's fun to beat a drum, and every boy wants to learn upon his own. Drums may be chosen in different sizes. Some have fibre heads, others of sheepskin and calfskin. 25c to \$2.

Clarinets, horns, violins, harmonicas, and accordions are here to be chosen as well.



Toy Cook Stoves

For Small Housekeepers

In several styles and like the big ranges. For the very up-to-date small housekeeper there are electric ranges that can be used for real cooking. 25c to \$10.

Laundry Sets For Christmas Dollies

There are fifty-two Mondays in every year, so little mothers will find washing sets very useful for keeping dolly's clothes clean. Some of the sets are so complete that they contain not only wash tubs, clothes pins, reels, but clothes baskets, ironing boards and irons as well—\$1.00 to \$3.00 set.

Clothes for Dolly Here in Toyland



Fine Railroad Systems

For Boys and Girls

There are palatial trains with big electric engines pulling passenger and buffet cars. There are engines drawing freight and regular passenger cars. \$5 to \$47.50.

Trains that wind, with tracks of different lengths \$1.75 to \$5.

Cedar Chests Trimmed With Copper

These may be chosen in many sizes suitable for dolly's clothes. They are made of cedar and have copper hinges and decorated with bands just as the large ones are 95c to \$5.50.

